

## **MEETING RECORD**

### **NAME OF GROUP:**

Urban Design Committee

### **DATE, TIME AND**

### **PLACE OF MEETING:**

Wednesday, February 1, 2006, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

### **MEMBERS AND OTHERS**

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Members: Mike Eckert, JoAnne Kissel, Third World Oforah, Gordon Scholz and Scott Sullivan; (Dennis Scheer and Kim Todd absent).  
Others: Josh Simpson (The Clark Enersen Partners); Ernie Castillo (Urban Development Department); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth of the Planning Department.

### **STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:**

Regular Urban Design Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

### **Approval of meeting notes of January 4, 2006**

Kissel moved approval of the January 4, 2006 meeting minutes with the revisions requested by Oforah, seconded by Oforah. Motion carried 5-0. Eckert, Kissel, Oforah, Scholz and Sullivan voting 'yes'; Scheer and Todd absent.

### **South Street right-of-way enhancements (Ernie Castillo, Urban Development)**

Ernie Castillo updated the Committee on the South Street project. In June of 2005, they began a streetscape enhancement project for South Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1999, business and property owners in the neighborhood inquired about enhancements in the area. At that time, the CBDG funding was only available on the north side of South Street. They re-visited it again in 2003. It was all within the low to moderate income area so they could use the CBDG funding to do design work and implementation.

They have had three focus group meetings and two public open houses to gather input. By the end of February, they should get construction documents from Clark Enersen. This is a joint project with Public Works. Urban Development is working with streetscape and redevelopment, and Public Works is doing road resurfacing, curb work and working on the jog at 14<sup>th</sup> Street to the south. The work should take place in the spring of 2007.

Kissel began a PowerPoint presentation and stated that Clark Enersen is doing the design work for the project. With the limited funds, they decided to focus on the intersections to make the biggest impact. There are a lot of pedestrian crossings in this area. They are doing colored concrete, improving the nodes and putting in new street lights, new signals and ornamental lighting. There are also new utilities going in. One of the challenges is that the property line comes up to the sidewalk on the north side of the street. But there is quite a bit of linear green space to take advantage of on the south side of the street.

They want to create a plaza area at 14<sup>th</sup> Street, because of the blind intersection there. Public Works would like to close the street entirely because the intersection is very dangerous. However, the property owner there is against this because of the loss of on-street parking. A compromise is a right-turn only lane; however, the owner is against this option as well.

Kissel noted that they are proposing signs with a historical reference to the area. Their approach is to incorporate images of the historical buildings into banners.

Simpson stated that they plan to use street furniture that has a historic look to it. It will be black in color. There will be three types of overstory trees, ornamental trees and other vegetation. The project will likely be phased from the east to the west.

Oforah commented that he likes the proposed trees, but suggested using a tree with a red or purple bud. He also noted that although a lot of parking is being taken at 14<sup>th</sup> Street, he feels we must look at the trade-offs as that intersection is very dangerous. Castillo stated that currently the intersection is being proposed as right-turn only.

Scholz asked about the pattern of the concrete at the corners. Simpson stated that it will be an antique brick pattern. Scholz suggested using another stamping pattern instead of making concrete look like brick.

Zimmer asked about the possibility of adding landscaping at Lutheran Church on the north side.

Sullivan moved approval of the project with the suggestions of either having a right-turn only at 14<sup>th</sup> Street or closing it depending on parking issues; using red bud trees; using a stamping pattern other than a brick look for the concrete; and adding landscaping at the Lutheran Church; it was seconded by Oforah. Motion carried 4-0. Eckert, Oforah, Scholz and Sullivan voting 'yes'; Kissel abstaining; Scheer and Todd absent.

### **Enersen Urban Design Award**

Zimmer stated that the Enersen Urban Design Award has traditionally been done in conjunction with the Lincoln Arts Council award. He noted that a decision on the Enersen award will need to be made by the next meeting. Suggestions for the award are the Old Fed Building, the Fallbrook Development, Village Green Development, the streetscape work on N. 48<sup>th</sup> at University Place, Sunken Gardens and the Near South park at 19<sup>th</sup> and A Streets. Eckert stated that although Fallbrook is aesthetically pleasing, he feels it could be considered when the commercial development is in place.

Kissel departed prior to the next vote.

Sullivan moved that the 2005 Enersen Urban Design Award be given to the Sunken Garden project, seconded by Eckert. Motion carried 4-0. Eckert, Oforah, Scholz and Sullivan voting 'yes'; Kissel, Todd and Scheer absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.